



## **SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Thursday, March 17, 2016**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Coon Rapids City Center**

**Conference Room 3**

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### **Call to Order**

### **Roll Call**

### **Adopt Agenda**

AI-3464 Minutes

### **Old Business**

0. AI-3465 March 8 Council Workshop update
1. AI-3466 Mn GreenStep Grant
2. AI-3467 Gren Expo update

### **New Business**

### **Other Business**

### **Adjourn**



**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**Meeting Date:** 03/17/2016

**SUBJECT:** Minutes

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**Attachments**

02/18/2016

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COON RAPIDS SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2016

The February 18, 2016 meeting of the Sustainability Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Stacey Demmer at the Coon Rapids City Hall.

Sustainability Members Present: Stacey Demmer, Rebecca Holmlund, Bob Krahm, Ed Dedman, Marcia Baudino, Christy Lamoreaux, Chris Backes, Tim Lockrem and Steven Pedersen

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Colleen Sinclair and Amanda Bednar

Others Present: None

1. ACCEPT AGENDA

No modifications were made to the agenda. Motioned by Christy Lamoreaux to approve, seconded by Ed Dedman. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Marcia Baudino, seconded by Christy Lamoreaux, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2016 Sustainability Commission meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

3. APWA Award

Commission members were given a draft of the APWA Sustainability Award that staff has been working on in past weeks. City staff decided to nominate Coon Rapids for this award based on requirements and city practices that highlight the various aspects of sustainability at are addressed in our city. Marcia Baudino would like to see more information added about pollinator plantings done by the Forestry Department in the past. Members also suggested adding more about the Commission, their past projects and future plans to illustrate forward-thinking of Coon Rapids related to sustainability. Commission members were invited to read through the draft and provide comments by end of day Monday, February 22, 2016 as the deadline is quickly approaching. Overall Commission was satisfied with results and information included in the award submittal.

4. Green Expo Update

Staff updated Commission on the progress of the Green Expo. Currently there are nine spaces left available for vendors. There are some space limitations this year, necessary changes were discussed to adjust from previous years. Commission members will be present at the event to help with various areas as needed. Local high school National Honor Society groups have been contacted for volunteers as well. Staff will request they are available for both set up and clean up this year. Prizes for the Expo were discussed including how the drawings will work this year. Ed and Chris organized this last year and will take the lead again this year, specifics will be discussed as the Expo gets closer. Commission agreed requiring winners to be present to win worked best. New items this year include a teardrop trailer,

possible food truck, make and take products and more. All members plan to be available the day of the event to volunteer.

#### 5. Coon Creek Watershed District Grant

As part of the Green Expo this year, staff will again be applying for funding through the Coon Creek Watershed District for a water conservation project. Staff plans to purchase moisture and temperature sensors to be installed with existing irrigation systems for ten residential households in Coon Rapids. Water conservation is a priority for CCWD and Coon Rapids and this project will allow us to reach households in the area. Selected households will be given the sensors and installation at no cost and be required to sign an agreement with Coon Rapids to provide water tracking data three years before and after installation at minimum. There is another Toro system that is more complex that will be awarded to one household, making total number of participants 11 households. Specific selection criteria has yet to be determined. Advertising and application for this program will be done at the Green Expo and Commission members will assist at the event. Interested households that meet the criteria will be able to apply at the Expo and get more information on the pilot program.

Commission members were excited about this new project and felt it was a beneficial way to track data, educate on water conservation and provide something new at the Expo. They requested the agreement extend data tracking to five years potentially. They also suggested opening up the program to those households not selected who still may want to participate. This could include providing information on purchasing the sensor and installation individually and allowing the city to track their data. This would encourage others to participate on their own terms and provide additional data for the project as a whole. Commission members will help with determining criteria for applicants and the agreement as the event gets closer and funding for the project is confirmed.

#### 6. Native Plant Update

The tentative City Council workshop date to discuss native plant changes is set for March 8, 2016 however that is subject to change depending on other agenda topics. Staff and commission discussed changes that were made to the current long grass ordinance to allow native plantings. Many definitions were re-written and added to meet the changing criteria and requirements for plantings. The workshop discussion will also include an education plan and marketing for the changes. Staff has been working with various city departments to ensure any changes made meet their needs for code enforcement. Staff is hoping to move the process along quickly as growing season is quickly approaching.

Chris Backes suggested looking in to possible issues with plantings being allowed in drainage easements. This would be something the engineering department would know about requirements and potential issues.

Stacey Demmer called for a vote to recommend and support the draft in current form to City Council. Motion by Ed Dedman and seconded by Bob Krahn. All members in support, none opposed.

#### 7. MN GreenStep City Grant

Commission members discussed the MN GreenStep City Grant funding that's available for projects up to \$3,000. Various ideas were discussed including water meters for city buildings, pollinator areas for

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education, stormwater reuse options and business recognition program. Due to the quick timeline and limited staff time currently, members discussed simplistic options this year that will provide education and sustainable practices. It was decided to apply for funding to provide residents LED light bulbs at the Summer in the City neighborhood meetings. These events are already planned and will provide a great outlet to connect with residents and talk to them about energy conservation methods via LED light bulbs. Members felt this was the best option for this year and an area they would like to focus on. If similar funding is available next year, they would like to create a more involved project as time allows. Motion by Bob Krahn to request funding for LED light bulbs, seconded by Ed Dedman, passed unanimously. Staff will begin working on the application and outline for the project for grant request requirements.

### 8. Additional Discussion Item

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Stacey Demer was contacted by the League of Women Voters regarding nitrogen levels in the river and a request to meet with the Sustainability Commission. Commission requested an outline of their presentation to determine whether they are the appropriate group to meet with the League.

### 9. Adjourn

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Motion by Stacey Demer, seconded by Christy Lamoreaux to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m. Group photo was taken of all Commission members after meeting.



**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**0.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/17/2016

**Subject:** March 8 Council Workshop update

**From:** Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator

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**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**1.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/17/2016

**Subject:** Mn GreenStep Grant

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**Sustainability Commission - Regular**

**2.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/17/2016

**Subject:** Gren Expo update

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